

Title: He Did Not Have the Guts to Be Godly: A Warning Against Hard-Hearted Leadership

Sermon Summary: Drawing from 2 Chronicles 21, the pastor examines the reign of Jehoram, son of the godly King Jehoshaphat, whose life stands as a stark warning against spiritual compromise and self-serving leadership. Despite being born into a legacy of faithfulness, Jehoram abandoned God, murdered his own brothers, led his people into idolatry, and refused to repent even when confronted directly by the prophet Elijah. The sermon weaves together themes of God's covenant faithfulness, the weight of personal influence, the certainty of divine judgment, and the transforming power of Christ's sacrifice. The pastor draws a clear contrast between Jehoram's stubborn pride and the repentant heart that God honors, ultimately pointing the congregation toward the communion table as a reminder that Christ gave everything so that believers would no longer live for themselves but for him.

Key Points:

- God's covenant faithfulness endures even when his people are unfaithful, as demonstrated by his refusal to destroy David's bloodline despite Jehoram's wickedness
- Leadership carries enormous spiritual responsibility, and those in positions of influence who lead others away from God face serious divine consequences
- Hard-heartedness and refusal to repent when confronted by God only compounds judgment rather than preventing it
- Every believer is writing a daily testimony through their choices, and the question is whether that testimony reflects genuine devotion to Christ or merely a desire for spiritual fire insurance
- God is patient and slow to anger, but his patience is not the same as indifference, and there comes a point where judgment follows unrepentant sin
- Believers should cultivate a repentant heart like David rather than a defiant one like Jehoram, because God honors those who return to him in humility

- The coming judgment seat of Christ, referenced in 2 Corinthians 5, should motivate believers to live for God now rather than for themselves
- Communion is a call to remember that Christ gave up his life out of love, compelling believers to live sacrificially in response

Scripture Reference:

- 2 Chronicles 21:4-19, the primary text examining the reign and downfall of King Jehoram
- Acts 24:24-26, describing Felix's fear when Paul preached about righteousness, self-control, and the judgment to come
- 2 Corinthians 5:6-15, addressing the judgment seat of Christ and the love of Christ compelling believers to live for him rather than themselves

Stories:

- The reign of Jehoram, who murdered his brothers, led Judah into idolatry, and ultimately suffered the precise judgment Elijah had written to him in a letter, dying painfully after two years of an incurable bowel disease with no public mourning
- Elijah's letter to Jehoram, described as a rare or possibly unique instance of the prophet communicating through writing rather than in person, pronouncing God's coming judgment on Jehoram's household and health
- The biblical narrative of David, whose heart after God is contrasted with Jehoram's defiance, and whose covenant with God protected his bloodline even through wicked descendants
- The story of Joseph, briefly referenced as a type of Christ who was rejected by his brothers, sold into slavery, and falsely accused, yet raised up by God
- Moses at the burning bush, referenced as an example of God renewing his covenant call to a man who had spent forty years as a fugitive, reluctant but ultimately obedient
- Felix and Paul in Acts 24, where Felix stopped Paul mid-sermon when conviction became too uncomfortable, choosing convenience over repentance
- A personal farm story about pigs piling on top of one another in winter, used to illustrate the physical nature of the bowel disease that struck Jehoram as divine judgment
- The parable of the lost sheep, lost coin, and prodigal son from John 15, referenced to illustrate God's heart for the repentant and his readiness to

receive those who return to him